

What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

1. In a system having at least one application, a method for executing a search from within the at least one application, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting one or more search terms within the at least one application;

activating the one or more search terms;

performing a search based on the one or more search terms; and

returning search results to the at least one application.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one application is selected from the group of: word processor; spreadsheet, database, image processor; web browser; text recognition; email client, and operating system.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the step of selecting further comprises the step of automatically selecting the one or more search terms pursuant to pre-defined rules.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring the search.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of searching according to a context of the one or more search terms.

6. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the search results.

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2 7. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of presenting the  
3 search results to the user without the user having to exit the at least one application.  
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5 8. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the search is performed without the  
6 user having to exit the at least one application.  
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8 9. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of the  
9 manipulating, by a user, the search results.  
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11 10. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
12 performing the steps recited in claim 1.  
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1 11. In a computer system connected to a network, a method for performing a  
2 search over the network, the method comprising the steps of:

3 selecting search data within at least one application in the computer system;  
4 activating the search data;  
5 performing a search on the search data from within the at least one  
6 application such that the user is not required to open another application;  
7 returning search results to a user within the at least one application, wherein  
8 the user views the search results within the at least one application.  
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10 12. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the search data comprises text.  
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12 13. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further  
13 comprises the step of configuring the search.  
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15 14. A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the step of activating further  
16 comprises the step of selecting at least one search location.  
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18 15. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
19 performing the steps recited in claim 11.  
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1           16. In a computer system having access to one or more applications, the  
2 computer system connected to a network, a method for searching over the network, the  
3 method comprising the steps of:

4                     within an application, previewing data within at least one application;  
5                     selecting a portion of the previewed data as search terms;  
6                     performing a search based on the portion of the previewed data without user  
7 input;  
8                     caching search results from the search, wherein the search results are readily  
9 available to a user.

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11           17. A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for  
12 performing the steps recited in claim 16.